

1914

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Western Theological Seminary

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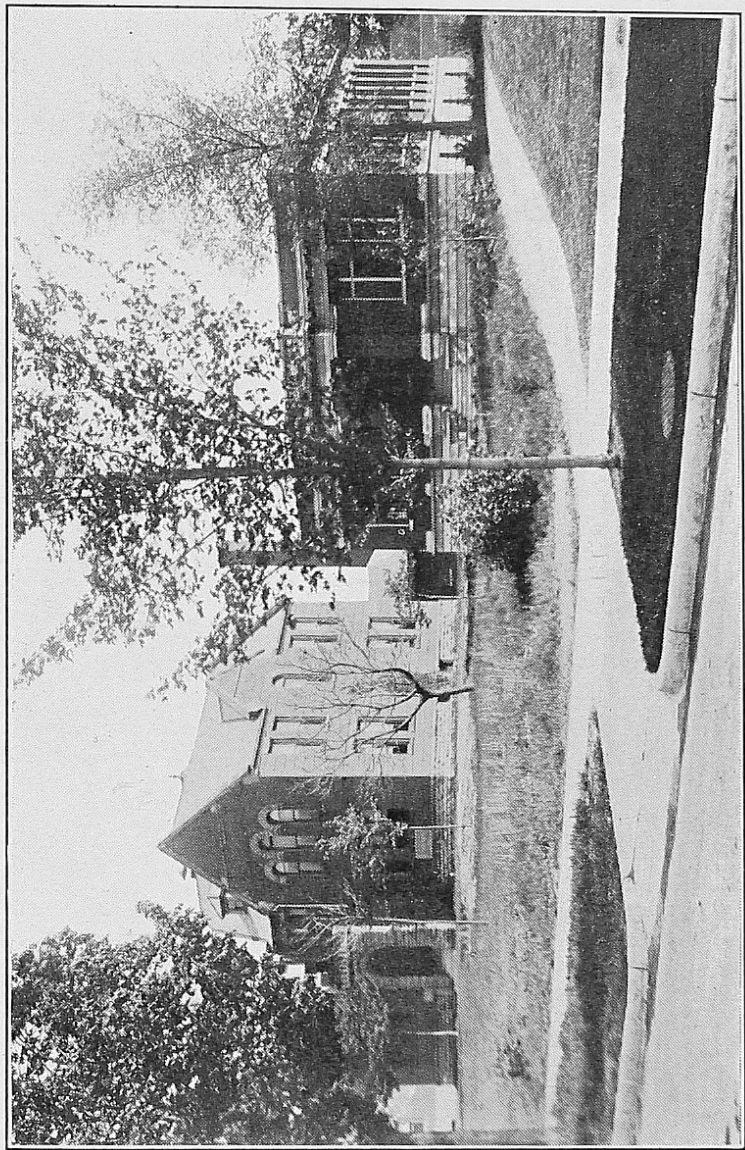


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SEMELINK HALL AND LIBRARY

Western Theological Seminary

Reformed Church in America



1914-1915

Holland, Michigan

CALENDAR

1914-1915

- 1914 September 17.....Entrance Examinations
 September 18.....Assignment of Work
 November 26.....Thanksgiving Recess
 December 18.....Christmas Recess begins
- 1915 January 5.....Work Resumed
 January 21.....Winter Examinations
 January 28.....Prayer for Colleges
 May 11, 12.....Final Examinations
 May 11.....Meeting of Board of Superintendents
 May 12.....Commencement Exercises in the evening
- September 16.....Entrance Examinations
 September 17.....Assignment of Work
 November 25.....Thanksgiving Recess
 December 17.....Christmas Recess begins

BOARD OF SUPERINTENDENTS

EX-OFFICIO

JOHN W. BEARDSLEE, D. D., LL. D.,
President of the Faculty
AME VENNEMA, D. D., - President of Hope College

From the Synod of New York

1918 REV. JAMES M. FARRAR, D. D., LL. D.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

From the Synod of Albany

1919 REV. JAMES S. KITTELL, D. D. - Albany, N. Y.

From the Synod of New Brunswick

1918 REV. I. W. GOWEN, D. D. - Weehawken, N. J.

From the Synod of Chicago

1915 ELDER J. A. WILTERDINK - Holland, Mich.
1915 REV. JOHN ENGELSMAN - Orange City, Ia.
1918 ELDER GERRIT J. KOLLEN - Holland, Mich.
1918 REV. A. VAN DEN BERG - Grand Rapids, Mich.
1919 REV. PETER MOERDYKE, D. D.,
Grand Rapids, Mich.
1919 ELDER CORNELIUS DOSKER Grand Rapids, Mich.

From the Classes

Dakota,	REV. B. W. LAMMERS	1917
Illinois,	" J. P. WINTER	1918
Holland,	" BENJAMIN HOFFMAN	1918
Pleasant Prairie,	" JOHN G. THEILKEN	1913
Iowa,	" FRED. LUBBERS	1919
Michigan,	" T. W. MUILENBERG	1919
Wisconsin,	" A. M. VAN DUINE	1919
Pella,	" A. ROZENDAL	1915
Grand River,	" EVERT TROOST	1916

Officers of the Board

REV. BENJAMIN HOFFMAN - - President
REV. PETER MOERDYKE, D. D. - Stated Clerk

THE FACULTY

REV. JOHN W. BEARDSLEE, D. D., LL.D.,

President of the Faculty
In charge of Old Testament Exegesis
26 East Twelfth Street.

REV. JAMES F. ZWEMER, D. D.

(On leave of absence, 1914-1915)
Secretary of the Faculty and Professor of Practical
Theology.
64 West Fourteenth Street.

REV. MATTHEW KOLYN, D. D.,

Professor of Historical Theology.
66 West Thirteenth Street.

REV. EVART J. BLEKKINK, D. D.,

Professor of Systematic Theology.
303 College Avenue

REV. JOHN W. BEARDSLEE, Jr., Ph. D., D. D.,

Professor of Biblical Languages and Literature.
26 East Twelfth Street.

Committee on Reception of Students and Examinations

Rev. Benjamin Hoffman, Rev. Teunis W. Muilenburg,

Rev. Albert Vandenberg, Rev. Peter Moerdyke,

Elder Cornelius Dosker, President Ame

Vennema and the Faculty.

STUDENTS

SENIOR CLASS

- JOHN EVERETT BENNINK, A. B.....Kalamazoo
Hope College, 1912.
- JOHN WILLIAM BRINK, A. B.....Maurice, Iowa
Hope College, 1912.
- OLIVER GERRIT DROPPERS, A. B., Cedar Grove, Wis.
Hope College, 1912.
- JOHN DEWEY DYKSTRA, A. B.Holland
Olivet College, 1911.
- ENGLEHART FURDAHolland
Hope College.
- RAYMOND DIRK MEENGs, A. B.....Cedar Grove, Wis.
Hope College, 1911.
- GERRIT MENNINGAlton, Iowa
Hope College.
- HUBERT S. MUILENBERG, A. B.....Orange City, Iowa
Iowa College, 1912.
- THOMAS G. VAN DEN BOSCH.....Grand Haven
Calvin College, 1912.
- FREDERICK JOHN VAN DYK, A. B., Grand Rapids
Hope College, 1912.

- BART R. VAN ZYL, A. B. Alton, Iowa
Hope College, 1912.
- FREDERIC ZANDSTRA, A. B. Chicago, Ill.
Hope College, 1912.

MIDDLE CLASS

- JOHN BOVENKERK Holland
- HENRY COLENBRANDER, A. B. Paterson, N. J.
Hope College, 1913.
- CLARENCE PAUL DAME **AB** Chicago, Ill.
Hope College, 1913.
- JOHN MARTIN DE VRIES, A. B. Austinville, Iowa
Mission House, 1913.
- LAMBERTUS HEKHUIS, A. B. Overisel
Hope College, 1913.
- GEORGE G. HENEVELD, A. B. Holland
Hope College, 1913.
- ALEXANDER VAN BRONKHORST, A. B., Hudsonville
Hope College, 1913.
- RICHARD JOHN VANDEN BERG, A. B., Grand Rapids
Hope College, 1913.
- BEREND THEODORE VANDER WOUDE, A. B., Holland
Hope College, 1913.
- ALBERT HARMS WAALKES, A. B., German Valley, Ill.
Mission House, 1913.

JUNIOR CLASS

- JACOB JONATHAN ALTHUIS, A. B. Holland
Hope College, 1914
- GEORGE WILLIAM BONTE, A. B. Alexander, Iowa
Hope College, 1913.

HARRY HOFFS, A. B.....	Hospers, Iowa
Hope College, 1914.	
HENRY CHRISTIAN JACOBS, A. B.....	Alton, Iowa
Hope College, 1914.	
HENRY VAN EYCK STEGEMAN, A. B.....	Holland
Hope College, 1912.	
JOHN CORNELIUS VAN WYK, A. B.,	Orange City, Iowa
Iowa College, 1912.	
H. MICHAEL VEENSCHOTEN, A. B.....	Yucaipa, Cal.
Hope College, 1914.	

SUMMARY

Senior Class	12
Middle Class	10
Junior Class	7
Total.....	<u>29</u>

COURSES OF STUDY

EXEGETICAL THEOLOGY

HEBREW

Junior Class

1. Elements of Hebrew Grammar and word formation, based on selected readings from the Pentateuch and the books of Samuel.

Five hours a week throughout the year. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

Middle and Senior Classes

2. The Minor Prophets with the text of Amos, Jonah and Malachi, and a historical review of the period.

Three hours a week, first semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee. (Not offered in 1914-1915).

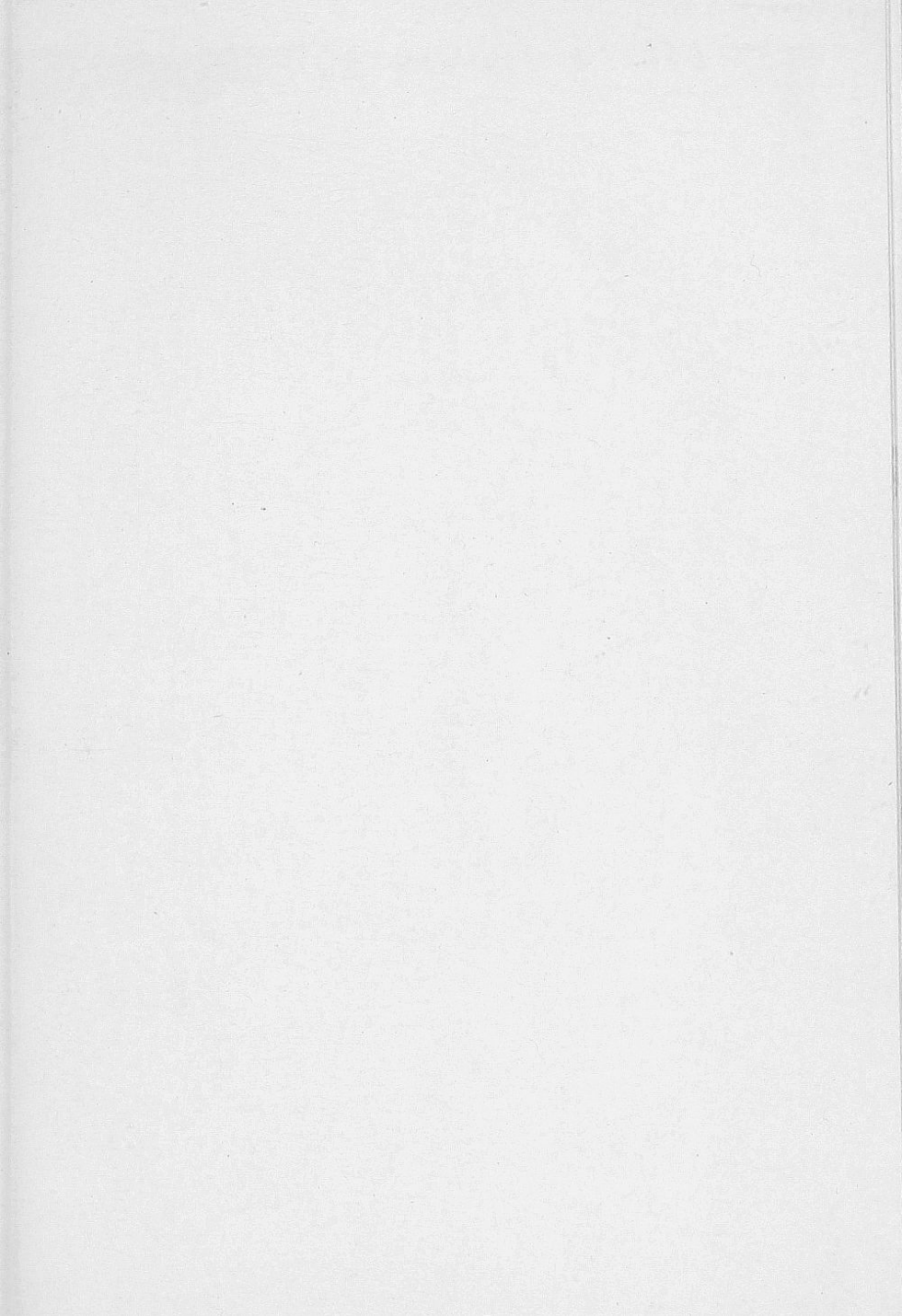
3. Hebrew Poetry, its external form and exegesis.

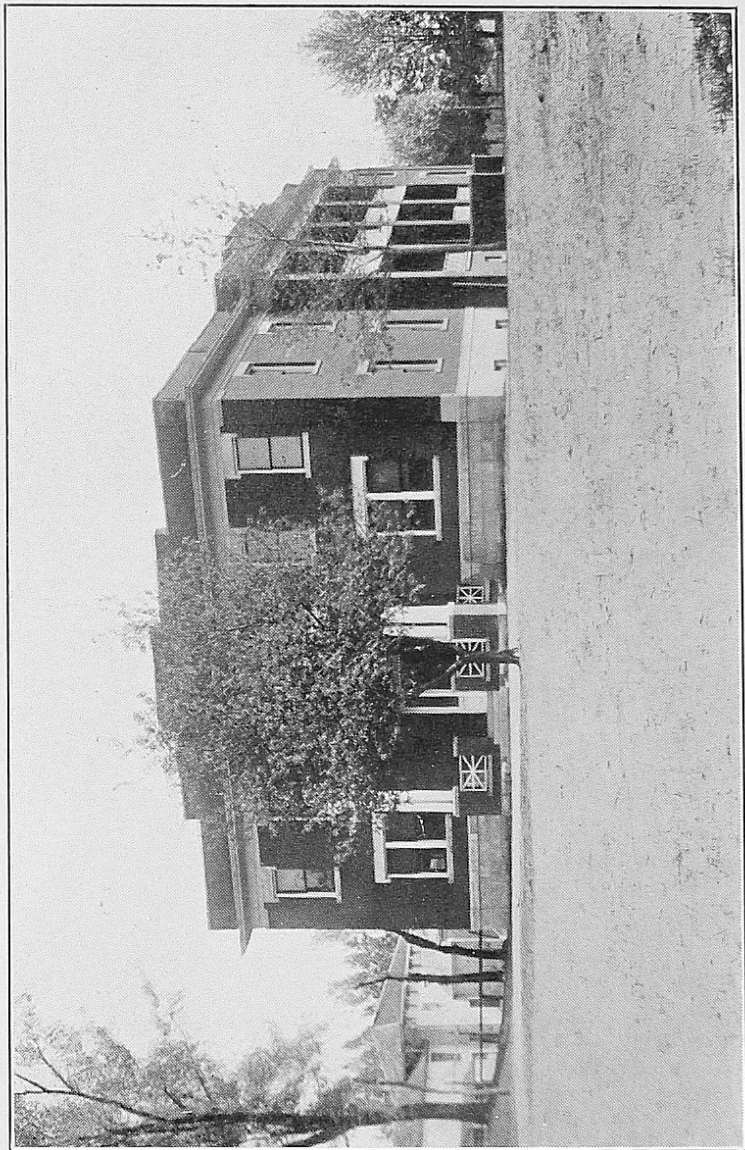
Three hours a week, second semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee. (Not offered in 1914-1915).

4. Selections from the Historical books, with a study of Chronology and the relations of Israel with foreign nations.

Three hours a week, first semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee.

5. Messianic Prophecy, the principles of its exegesis and the development of the Messianic idea.





DORMITORY

Three hours a week, second semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee.

6. The book of Ecclesiastes.

Senior Class

7. Old Testament Introduction, with reference to the contents of the books and current criticism.

One hour a week throughout the year. Prof. J. W. Beardslee.

GREEK

Junior Class

1. The Gospel of Mark read as an Introduction to New Testament Greek.

One hour a week throughout the year. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

2. The Acts of the Apostles. A study of the original sources of our knowledge of early Church life.

One hour a week throughout the year. Prof. J. W. Beardslee.

Middle Class

3. Introduction to the New Testament.

One hour a week throughout the year. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

4. The Epistle to the Hebrews. An exegetical study of the argument.

Three hours a week, first semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

5. The Life of Jesus, with special reference to the first three gospels.

Three hours a week, second semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

Senior Class

6. The Gospel according to St. John.

Three hours a week, first semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

7. The Epistle to the Romans.

Three hours a week, second semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

*HISTORICAL THEOLOGY**Junior Class*

1. Sacred History. A careful study of the history of God's revelation to Israel during the period of the Old Dispensation. A brief course in Intertestamentary History. The study of the life of Christ, and the founding of the Christian Church. Text-book, lectures and theses.

Four hours a week, first semester. Prof. M. Kolyn.

2. Church History. World conditions at the "Fullness of Time." Struggles and victories of the early church. Text-book and thesis.

Four hours a week, second semester. Prof. M. Kolyn.

Middle Class

3. Church History. Middle Period. Development of worship, doctrine and government. Rise and decline of the Papacy. The first period of the Reformation. Text-books and theses.

Four hours a week throughout the year. Prof. M. Kolyn.

Senior Class

4. Church History. Modern Period. History of the Reformation, continued. The rise and development of Protestant Churches in Europe. History of the Church in America, with special study of the history of the Reformed Church.

Four hours a week throughout the year. Prof. M. Kolyn.

5. History and Theory of Missions. Text-book and Lectures.

One hour a week, first semester. Prof. M. Kolyn.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Junior Class

1. Theological Encyclopedia and Methodology.
Two hours a week, first semester. Prof. E. J. Blekkink.
2. Confessional Theology and Symbolics.
Two hours a week, first semester. Prof. E. J. Blekkink.
3. Theology. The Doctrine of God.
Two hours a week, second semester. Prof. E. J. Blekkink.
4. Authority.
Two hours a week, second semester. Prof. E. J. Blekkink.

Middle Class

5. Theology. Anthropology, the Doctrine of Man; Christology, the Doctrine of the Person of Christ; Soteriology, the Doctrine of Salvation.
Four hours a week throughout the year. Prof. E. J. Blekkink.

Senior Class

6. Theology. Eschatology, the Doctrine of Last Things.
Three hours a week, first semester. Prof. E. J. Blekkink.
7. Review of the entire system of theology.
Two hours a week, second semester. Prof. E. J. Blekkink.
8. Christian Ethics.
One hour a week throughout the year. Prof. E. J. Blekkink.
9. Modernism.
One hour a week, second semester. Prof. E. J. Blekkink.

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

On account of Prof. Zwemer's absence during the year 1914-1915 his work during that year will be divided among his colleagues.

Junior Class

1. Diaconics. The nature, qualifications and demands of the Gospel Ministry.

One hour a week throughout the year. Prof. J. F. Zwemer.

2. Hermeneutics, including a synthetic study of the books of the Bible.

One hour a week throughout the year. Prof. J. F. Zwemer.

3. Homiletics, with lectures on the Ministry of Preaching and Sermon work.

Three hours a week throughout the year. Prof. J. F. Zwemer.

Middle Class

4. Liturgics.

Three hours a week, first semester. Prof. J. F. Zwemer.

5. Poimenics, Catechetics and Sunday School work.

Three hours a week, second semester. Prof. J. F. Zwemer.

6. Sermon sketches. Exercises in preaching. Written and Extemporaneous sermons and explanations of the Heidelberg Catechism.

One hour a week throughout the year. Prof. J. F. Zwemer.

Senior Class

7. Expository study of the Pastoral Epistles, in relation to Evangelization and Sociology.

Two hours a week throughout the year. Prof. J. F. Zwemer.

8. Kybernetics, Church Polity and Church Government, written sermon sketches, exercises in preaching written and extemporaneous sermons in the English, Holland and German languages.

One hour a week throughout the year. Prof. J. F. Zwemer.

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE YEAR—The Seminary opens on the third Thursday in September, at ten o'clock a. m., when the committee meets for the reception of students, and closes on the second Wednesday in May, with the Annual Commencement, at which addresses are made by two students and a member of the Board of Superintendents appointed for that purpose.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRANCE—Every applicant is required to present a certificate of church membership and one of literary qualifications. Graduates of a college of recognized standing, whose course of study includes a sufficient amount of Greek, Latin and Philosophy, will be admitted upon presentation of the usual credentials.

Applicants are expected to present a letter of Church membership with their testimonials.

Students are accepted from any denomination of Christians.

The requirements of the Constitution in regard to students preparing for the ministry in the Reformed Church are as follows:

“Every person contemplating the work of the ministry, before he commences his course of Theological studies, shall furnish satisfactory evidence of his being a member, in full communion and in good standing, of a Reformed Protestant Church; of his piety, abilities and literary attainments; and thereupon shall be admitted into one of the Theological Schools; and, during the prosecution of his studies there, shall be subject to the rules and regulations thereof; and, when he shall have completed the prescribed course and term of Theological studies, shall be admitted to an examination according to the regulations

of the Schools, as established by the General Synod; and, if found qualified, shall receive a Professorial Certificate to that effect, which shall entitle him to an examination for licensure before the Classis to which he belongs."—Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 2.

EXAMINATIONS—At the close of the year an oral examination of all the classes is held before the Board of Superintendents on Tuesday and Wednesday of Commencement week. Special written examinations are held in mid-winter as the work requires. The papers of these written examinations are transmitted for approval to a committee of the Board of Superintendents.

BENEFICIARY AID—Instruction is entirely gratuitous. Young men are aided by the Board of Education as their circumstances require and the funds admit, not only while in the Seminary, but in the College studies preparatory to entering it. Rooms are provided in the Seminary Dormitory, and board can be obtained in the city or at Voorhees Dormitory.

MISSION WORK—A study of Missions is included in the regular work of the Seminary. The students and faculty together support two native workers in India. A weekly prayer meeting does much to stimulate a deep interest in missions. Mr. Peter Semelink has established a scholarship of \$2,000, the income of which is to be paid to a student in the Seminary, preference being given to one looking forward to Foreign Missionary Work.

During the year lectures on Missions were delivered as follows: The Rev. Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer of Cairo, Egypt, on "The Mohammedan Conception of the Trinity;" the Rev. Dr. John H. Wyckoff of India, a series of four lectures on "Problems in India;" the Rev. Dr. Albert Oltmans of Tokio, Japan, on "The Work of Theological Education in Japan;" the Rev. George Schnucker of Pleasant Prairie, Illinois, on

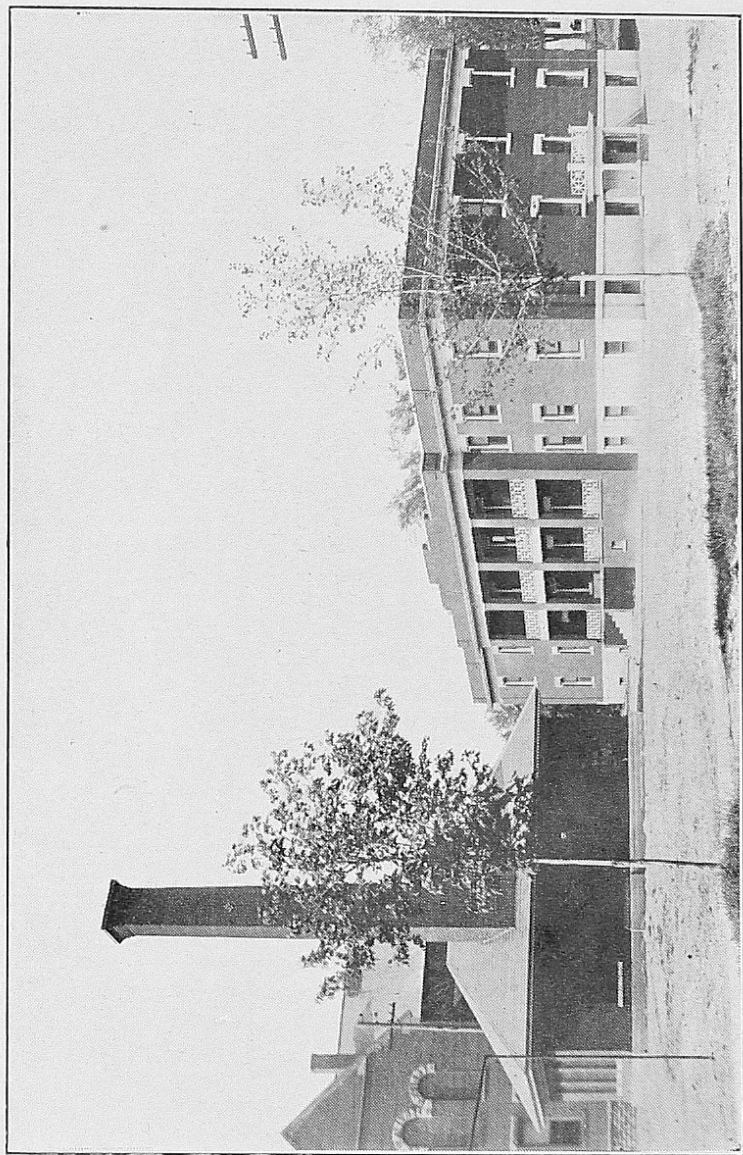
"Our Work Among the Germans of the Particular Synod of Chicago;" the Rev. J. Ira Jones of the Methodist Mission in Japan, on "Japan's Immediate Need of Missionaries."

THE ADELPHIC Y. M. C. A.—A gathering of Professors and Students is held every Tuesday evening at the home of one of the Professors. It stands for social, intellectual and spiritual development. Devotional exercises occupy the first half hour, essays and general discussions follow, after which a brief time is spent in social enjoyment. This meeting constitutes one of the most attractive features of our Seminary life.

STUDENT PREACHING—Members of the Middle and Senior classes have frequent opportunities to preach in our mission churches and where special service is needed. The assignment of students for such purposes is left by the General Synod with the Faculty, who will endeavor to afford all the students an opportunity to preach. It will greatly facilitate our effort if the churches needing such supplies will apply directly to the Faculty.

During the summer vacation students may be assigned to mission fields. In this way they are enabled to acquire experience in conducting church work as well as supplement their own income.

PROFESSORATE—The intention of the Reformed Church to establish Educational Institutions which would provide for her young people in the rapidly growing West, found expression in Hope College, which was incorporated in the year 1866. Seven members of the first graduating class petitioned the General Synod for permission to continue their theological studies at the College. Synod granted the request and arranged for the Professors of the College to give the necessary instruction. In 1867 the Rev. Cornelius E. Crispell was formally elected "Professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology at Hope College," and with assistance from the other professors he was directed to



POWER PLANT AND DORMITORY

give theological instruction in connection with his duties in the College. For a supervising body, Synod divided its Board of Superintendents of the Seminary at New Brunswick, which was composed of one delegate from each Classis throughout the Church, into an Eastern and Western Section, the Western to have charge of theology at Hope College.

Its work was greatly embarrassed by the lack of money, and its relation to the Synod was not according to the traditions of the Church. This finally led to a suspension of Theology in 1877, the Synod at the same time emphatically assuring the western churches it would gladly restore the school as soon as endowment could be secured.

In 1884, endowment for one professorship having been secured, mainly through the sacrifice of the western churches, Synod elected the late Rev. Dr. Nicholas M. Steffens as Professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology, with the Rev. Peter Moerdyke and the Rev. Henry E. Dosker as temporary Lectors.

Dr. Steffens resigned his position in 1895, and the late Rev. Dr. Egbert Winter was chosen his successor. He resigned in 1904 and the late Rev. Gerrit H. Dubbink was elected his successor, filling his position until his death in July, 1910. The Board of Superintendents requested Dr. Steffens to take charge until the Synod should meet in June, 1911, when he was chosen professor and remained in active service until his death, July 24, 1912.

Since that time the Rev. Dr. Blekkink has occupied the position; for one year on appointment of the Board and in 1913 by election of General Synod.

In 1888 a second professorship was established for **Biblical Languages and Literature**. The Rev. Dr. John W. Beardslee was elected professor and remained until 1913 when, at his own request, he was declared Emeritus. The Rev. John W. Beardslee, Jr., was elected as his successor.

In 1894 a third professorship was established for **Historical Theology** and the Rev. Henry E. Dosker was elected professor. He resigned in 1903. The Rev. Dr. Nicholas M. Steffens was elected his successor. He remained until 1911 when he was transferred to the chair of Systematic Theology. The Rev. Dr. Matthew Kolyn was chosen as Lector in 1910 and by the General Synod made a permanent professor in 1911.

In 1907 a fourth professorship, that of **Practical Theology**, was established and the Rev. James F. Zwemer elected professor.

SEMELINK FAMILY HALL. For nearly thirty years the Seminary had no home but occupied two very unsuitable rooms in a building on the College Campus, originally built as a residence for Professor Oggel. But in 1895 God moved the heart of Mr. Peter Semelink, of the Vriesland church, to erect a fine brick building, now known as the "Semelink Family Hall," furnished with modern conveniences, and containing five excellent lecture rooms and a commodious chapel.

THE LIBRARY. The new Library building is now completed and open for use. Its dimensions are about forty-eight by fifty-four feet. It has a basement well lighted and provided with book-shelves for the storage of a large number of books. Within is a wide hall having on one side a large reading room with reference library, including the leading theological encyclopedias and magazines, besides general works of reference. On the opposite side of the hall is a room designed for research work and committee meetings. These rooms as well as their furniture are of solid oak. Back of them is the stack-room with shelf-room for about 25,000 volumes and so arranged as to admit of a second story for shelves when necessary.

Already about 10,000 books are on the shelves with card catalogues and other facilities for consultation. The

students also have free access to the large library of Hope College, and to the public library of the city of Holland.

Valuable donations have been received during the year from our Board of Publication, from the library of the Rev. Dr. John M. Ferris, from the Michigan Historical Society, from the Christian Intelligencer, from the Rev. Dr. James M. Farrar, from Mr. Winter and from Lake Forest University.

DORMITORY. The common life of the Seminary finds its fullest realization in the new dormitory, a splendid building of brick and stone standing on the highest part of the campus. Along both the first and second stories of either side of the building extends a broad porch. The spacious entrance hall is fitted with wall seats beneath the stairs. At right and left are the two reception rooms which with the hall between form an ideal gathering place for the students and their friends. Here are tables and newspapers. Throughout the building the woodwork is of oak, the floors of maple. There are thirty student rooms, four of which are arranged en suite for the joint occupancy of two students. These rooms are large, each with its artistic table, study chair and rocker and bookcase built in the wall. In each room is an alcove, to which both hot and cold water are piped. In the basement there is a large room equipped with gymnastic apparatus, and both shower and tub baths are provided. The corridors are roomy, well lighted and ventilated.

POWER PLANT. The physical usefulness of the Seminary is much enhanced by the Power Plant, a neat red brick building where steam is generated and piped to all the buildings and where the electric light and water systems have their center. This saves the other buildings much noise and dirt, and greatly diminishes the fire risk.

RESOURCES. The Seminary desires to see its teaching force supported partly from the income of a limited endow-

ment, and partly by the annual contributions of churches and friends.

In accordance with this idea an endowment has been secured for the three professorships first organized, amounting to thirty thousand dollars for each chair. An endowment of ten thousand dollars has also been secured for incidental expenses, and of one thousand dollars for a Library fund.

Since the reestablishment of Theological Instruction at Holland, in 1884, all the money needed for the salaries of the Lectors temporarily employed and for the payment in full of the salaries of the unendowed and partially endowed Chairs, has been regularly provided from the Salary Fund, to which nearly all the Churches in the West devote an annual free-will offering.

Out of this fund the Salary of the Professor of Practical Theology is paid, and it also provides for whatever deficits may occur in the income from the endowment of the other professorships.

As proof that this Salary Fund is a living link between the Seminary and the Churches and justifies the wisdom of thus investing a part of our Endowment in the affections of our constituency, it may be stated that this Fund has grown from \$600 to the present income of \$2,200 annually, and that the amount given during these twenty years to this Fund, to supplement the income of the annual Endowment, now aggregates the grand total sum of \$27,000.

NEEDS WAITING FOR RESPONSIVE FRIENDS

Endowment for the Fourth Professorship;

Increased Library Endowment.

The salary of the fourth professorship is now met from the contributions of the churches. As soon as its endowment shall have been provided, these contributions can be used to secure the services of a fifth professor. This is imperatively necessary. At present the teaching of both Old and New Testaments is in the care of a single professorship.

Our Library has made an exceptional growth, through the thoughtful assistance of our many friends. It is now thoroughly indexed and arranged so as to be easily accessible to our students. But we have so small an endowment that we are unable to secure new books and periodicals which ought to be placed before the students as soon as they appear. This we regard as one of the fundamental requirements for securing a ministerial education such as the times demand. Can we look for the co-operation of our friends to secure this?

General Synod's Permanent Committee on the Finances of the Western Theological Seminary.

REV. JOHN W. BEARDSLEE, President

REV. JAMES F. ZWEMER. Secretary and Treasurer

MR. JOHN A. WILTERDINK MR. TEUNIS PRINS

MR. JOHN A. TROMPEN MR. BAREND DOSKER

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give unto the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.....Dollars for the maintenance and support of the Theological Seminary of said Church, located at Holland, Michigan, and they are to invest the principal and apply the interest to said purpose.

Or

I give unto the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.....Dollars for the establishment of a Professorship in the Theological Seminary of said Church, located at Holland, Michigan, to be named:

.....

Or

I give unto the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.....Dollars to the fund for the purchase of books for the Library of the Western Theological Seminary, located at Holland, Mich.

